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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/698,338

Applicant(s)

DANKER ET AL.

Examiner

JEAN D. SAINT CYR

Art Unit

2425

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2009.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114.

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/19/2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al in view of Lemmons et al, US No. 6266814.

Re claim 1, Alexander et al disclose presenting an electronic program guide user interface illustrating a schedule of multimedia programming in a grid pattern (see fig.1; a grid guide 22);

Monitoring user interactions with the EPG UI (EPG also records information surrounding the viewer's interaction, col.28, lines 60-61);

responding to a user's selection of one or more of the options of the quick EPG-navigation UI(selecting a theme brings up a screen listing, by time, channel, and title, of

the programs that are consistent with the selected theme on a second-level theme screen, col.34, lines 46-49).

But did not explicitly disclose in response to one or more triggering user interactions, presenting a quick EPG-navigation UI that is inlaid within the grid pattern of the schedule of multimedia programming, the EPG-navigation UI having one or more user-selectable options therein, wherein the inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI is presented so that the inlaid quick EPG navigation UI is Logically inlaid between time blocks of the schedule of multimedia programming in the grid pattern, the schedule of multimedia programming and inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI both being presented simultaneously.

However, Lemmons et al disclose in response to one or more triggering user interactions, presenting a quick EPG-navigation UI that is inlaid within the grid pattern of the schedule of multimedia programming(see fig.8; when the Program Guide display mode is initially invoked by pressing the Guide key on the remote control, the screen 100 also includes a menu overlay or "quickmenu",col.9, lines 19-21), the EPG-navigation UI having one or more user-selectable options therein(The quickmenu 116 contains a plurality of menu choices which allow the viewer to control the operation of the interactive program guide, col.9, lines 25-27), wherein the inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI is presented so that the inlaid quick EPG (see fig.8) navigation UI is Logically inlaid between time blocks of the schedule of multimedia programming in the grid pattern(the program guide screen 100 adopts the familiar grid format for presenting program schedule information to viewers,col.8, lines 58-60), the schedule of multimedia programming and inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI both being presented simultaneously(the calendar cursor and the day part cursor are simultaneously displayed in the screen,col.17, lines 42-44).

It would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to combine the invention of Alexander with the invention of lemons

for the purpose of allowing the system to display a schedule of multimedia programming and inlaid quick EPG-navigation simultaneously.

Re claim 2, Alexander et al disclose wherein the method further comprises generating the quick EPG-navigation UI and determining which user-selectable options to include based upon context of user interactions with the EPG UI before a triggering user interaction (the EPG typically returns to the mode in which the viewer was operating immediately before selecting the option that triggered the display of the video clip, col.20, lines 10-12).

Re claim 3, Alexander et al disclose wherein the method further comprises generating the quick EPG-navigation UI and determining positioning of the quick EPG-navigation UI within the EPG UI based upon context of user interactions with the EPG UI before a triggering user interaction (the viewer can jump to the channel slot for a particular channel by entering the digits of the channel identification number on the key pad of the viewer's remote control device. The EPG interprets the number and calculates the proper position for the EPG cursor. The EPG then displays the cursor at the appropriate channel slot on-screen, col.16, lines 29-35).

Re claim 4, Alexander et al disclose wherein the method further comprises generating the quick EPG-navigation UI and determining positioning of the quick EPG-navigation UI within the grid pattern of the schedule of multimedia programming based upon context of user interactions with the EPG UI before a triggering user interaction (The EPG then displays the cursor at the appropriate channel slot on-screen, col.16, lines 34-35).

Re claim 5, Alexander et al disclose wherein a triggering user interaction comprises one or more "scroll-forward" selections, such selection are indicative of a user's desire to see future scheduled programming in the EPG UI (the viewer scrolls up and down the listings for each channel and from left to right and right to left to view the

listings for a channel scheduled for different times during the day. Typically, the left-most portion of the guide begins with the earliest scheduled programs and continues to the right serially through the listings scheduled at later times during the day, col.10, lines 36-42)

Re claim 6, Alexander et al disclose wherein the triggering user interactions are selected from a group consisting of: multiple repeated performance of a "scroll-forward" selection action which advances a presentation of a schedule of programming in the grid of the EPG UI a predefined amount of time into the future(the viewer user can jump directly to a future day of programming schedule information, col.15, lines 43-44); a predefined number of multiple repeated performance of a "scroll- forward" selection action; a performance of a designated selection action.

Re claim 7, Alexander et al disclose wherein the user- selectable options are selected from a group consisting of: option to search future programming based upon one or more characteristics of that programming; option to look ahead into the schedule of multimedia programming of the EPG UI; option to view one or more live television multimedia programs; option to view one or more on-demand multimedia programs; option to view one or more pay-per-view multimedia programs; option to view one or more locally stored multimedia programs; option to view one or more pay-per-view multimedia programs; option to view one or more multimedia commercial messages; option to filter (the viewer is also given the option of filtering, col.11, lines 35-36) or otherwise adjust the parameters the determine which programs are listed by time within the grid.

Re claim 8, Alexander et al disclose after the presenting of the quick EPG-navigation UI (see fig.1; a grid guide 22), the quick EPG-navigation UI comprises one or more display areas, wherein contents of such display areas are selected from a group consisting of: one or more options to search future programming based upon one or more characteristics of that programming (offer search capabilities to the viewer to

locate information of interest, Col.18, lines 52-53); one or more options to look ahead into the schedule of multimedia programming of the EPG UI; one or more options to view one or more live television multimedia programs; one or more options to view one or more on-demand multimedia programs; one or more options to view one or more pay-per-view multimedia programs; one or more options to view one or more locally stored multimedia programs; one or more options to view one or more multimedia commercial messages; one or more options to filter or otherwise adjust the parameters the determine which programs are listed by time within the grid.

Re claim 9, Alexander et al disclose wherein the responding to the user's selection comprises presenting new content of which is selected from a group consisting of: a new EPG UI listing future programming based upon one or more characteristics of that programming; a new grid showing a schedule of upcoming multimedia programming of the EPG UI starting at a time in the future (viewer can choose to view the Grid Guide in an "all channel" format which displays in some order every channel and the listings of programs already in progress or scheduled to begin at some time in the future, col.10, lines 32-35); a live television multimedia program; a on-demand multimedia program; a pay-per-view multimedia program; a locally stored multimedia program; a multimedia commercial message.

Re claim 10, Alexander et al disclose a first display area comprises at least a portion of the schedule of multimedia programming in the grid pattern(see fig.1, grid guide);

But did not explicitly disclose a second display area comprises the quick EPG-navigation UI, the second display area inlaid within the grid pattern of the first display area.

However, Lemmons et al disclose a second display area comprises the quick EPG-navigation UI, the second display area inlaid within the grid pattern of the first display

area (see fig.8; when the Program Guide display mode is initially invoked by pressing the Guide key on the remote control, the screen 100 also includes a menu overlay or "quickmenu", col.9, lines 19-21).

It would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to combine the invention of Alexander with the invention of lemons for the purpose of allowing the system to display a schedule of multimedia programming and inlaid quick EPG-navigation simultaneously.

Re claim 11, Alexander et al disclose wherein the quick EPG-navigation UI is presented so that it is inlaid between time blocks of the schedule of multimedia programming in the grid pattern(see fig.7, a quick navigation table).

Re claim 12, Alexander et al disclose a multimedia presentation system comprising: a multimedia presentation device (a television receiver, a VCR, or a cable box, col.3, line 25);
a medium as recited in claim 1(see rejection on claim 1).

Re claim 13, Alexander et al disclose means for monitoring user interactions with an electronic program guide user interlace(EPG also records information surrounding the viewer's interaction, col.28, lines 60-61) illustrating a schedule of multimedia programming in a grid pattern(see fig.8);

means for receiving a user interaction with the EPG UI (see fig.8, navigation bar);

quick EPG-navigation UI (see fig.8, where the option "sort" was selected by the user).

But did not explicitly disclose means for presenting an inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI in response to one or more triggering user interactions, the inlaid quick EPG-

navigation UI being inlaid within the grid pattern of the schedule of multimedia programming EPG UI and having user-selectable options, wherein the inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI is presented so that the inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI is logically inlaid between time blocks of the schedule of multimedia programming in the grid pattern, the schedule of multimedia programming and inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI both being presented simultaneously;

wherein after the presenting of the quick EPG-navigation UI, the EPG UI includes a first display area having at least a portion of the schedule of multimedia programming in a grid pattern and a second display area having the quick EPG-navigation UI.

However, Lemmons et al disclose means for presenting an inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI in response to one or more triggering user interactions, the inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI being inlaid within the grid pattern of the schedule of multimedia programming EPG UI and having user-selectable options(The quickmenu 116 contains a plurality of menu choices which allow the viewer to control the operation of the interactive program guide, col.9, lines 25-27, wherein the inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI is presented so that the inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI is logically inlaid between time blocks of the schedule of multimedia programming in the grid pattern(the program guide screen 100 adopts the familiar grid format for presenting program schedule information to viewers,col.8, lines 58-60, the schedule of multimedia programming and inlaid quick EPG-navigation UI both being presented simultaneously(the calendar cursor and the day part cursor are simultaneously displayed in the screen,col.17, lines 42-44);

wherein after the presenting of the quick EPG-navigation UI, the EPG UI includes a first display area having at least a portion of the schedule of multimedia programming in a grid pattern and a second display area having the quick EPG-navigation UI (see fig.8; when the Program Guide display mode is initially invoked by pressing the Guide key on the remote control, the screen 100 also includes a menu overlay or "quickmenu", col.9, lines 19-21).

It would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to combine the invention of Alexander with the invention of lemons for the purpose of allowing the system to display a schedule of multimedia programming and inlaid quick EPG-navigation simultaneously.

Re claim 14, Alexander et al disclose further comprising a means for presenting the EPG UI (see fig.1).

Re claim 15, Alexander et al disclose wherein the triggering user interactions are selected from a group consisting of: multiple repeated performance of a "scroll-forward" selection action which advances a presentation of a schedule of programming in the grid pattern a predefined amount of time into the future(the viewer user can jump directly to a future day of programming schedule information, col.15, lines 43-44); a predefined number of multiple repeated performance of a "scroll- forward" selection action; a performance of a designated selection action.

Re claim 16, Alexander et al disclose wherein the user- selectable options are selected from a group consisting of: option to search future programming based upon one or more characteristics of that programming; option to look ahead into the schedule of multimedia programming of the EPG UI; option to view one or more live television multimedia programs; option to view one or more on-demand multimedia programs; option to view one or more pay-per-view multimedia programs; option to view one or more locally stored multimedia programs; option to view one or more pay-per-view multimedia programs; option to view one or more multimedia commercial messages; option to filter (the viewer is also given the option of filtering, col.11, lines 35-36) or otherwise adjust the parameters the determine which programs are listed by time within the grid.

Re claim 17, is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

Re claim 18, is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

Re claim 19, is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 7.

Re claim 20, is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 10.

Re claim 21, is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

Re claim 22, Alexander et al disclose wherein the new content is selected from a group consisting of: a new EPG UI listing future programming based upon one or more characteristics of that programming; a new grid showing a schedule of upcoming multimedia programming of the EPG UI starting at a time in the future (viewer can choose to view the Grid Guide in an "all channel" format which displays in some order every channel and the listings of programs already in progress or scheduled to begin at some time in the future, col.10, lines 32-35); a live television multimedia program; a on-demand multimedia program; a pay-per-view multimedia program; a locally stored multimedia program; a multimedia commercial message.

Re claim 23, is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

Re claim 24, is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 7.

Re claim 25, is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

Re claim 26, Alexander et al disclose wherein the responding to the user's selection comprises presenting new content of which is selected from a group consisting of: a new EPG UI listing future programming based upon one or more characteristics of that programming; a new grid showing a schedule of upcoming multimedia programming of the EPG UI starting at a time in the future (viewer can choose to view the Grid Guide in an "all channel" format which displays in some order every channel and the listings of programs already in progress or scheduled to begin at some time in the future, col.10, lines 32-35); a live television multimedia program; a on-demand multimedia program; a pay-per-view multimedia program; a locally stored multimedia program; a multimedia commercial message.

Re claim 27, is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

Re claim 28, is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 7.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-28 have been considered but are moot in of the new ground(s) of rejection. The amendment to the claims necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection discussed above. This office action is non-final.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean Duclos Saintcyr whose phone number is 571-270-3224. The examiner can normally reach on M-F 7:30-5:00 PM EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are not successful, his supervisor, Brian Pendleton, can be reached on 571-272-7527. The fax number for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, dial 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jean Duclos Saintcyr /

/Brian T. Pendleton/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2425